



DIGITAL STORYTELLING

THE BASICS

DIGITAL STORYTELLING IN EDUCATION

Digital Storytelling can be used to improve a variety of skills needed in the 21st century. Students gain practice with technology tools and use media as a means for personal expression. They practice research, writing and presentations skills, and improve digital literacy. For teachers, digital storytelling is a great way to integrate multimedia into the classroom. It can serve as a lesson hook and facilitate discussion around difficult topics.

WHAT IS DIGITAL STORYTELLING?

Digital storytelling is a modern version of the ancient art of storytelling that uses mixed media including images, text, music, and narrative to tell a story or present ideas and research.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In digital storytelling, students have something important to say or to tell other people. The intent is that the student (or group of students) thinks about what they want their story to be, plan their story, create the story using the appropriate technical and literary means, and then present their story in a digital format.

Digital stories typically begin with a script which organizes the main concepts. Rich media sources are assembled and pieced together to convey the message set out in the script. The end product is a "mini-movie" that brings the story to life in a rich and engaging way. These stories could be personal stories, stories about families, information based stories, fictional or artistic stories.

There are a number of simple programs for creating digital stories as well as more complex programs for more sophisticated projects.

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RESOURCES

7 Things You Should Know About Digital Storytelling

Educause

<http://www.educause.edu/irl/library/pdf/ELI7021.pdf>

This article is one in a series of articles from Educause that illustrate examples of technology tools used in education. Topics covered include: What is digital storytelling? and How it is being used in the classroom?

50+ Web 2.0 Ways to Tell a Story

Alan Levine

<http://50ways.wikispaces.com/>

This wiki contains more than 50 ways to tell a story using free tools on the Internet in your classroom.

The Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) program is a proven job-embedded professional learning service that enhances teaching practice and improves student achievement. This is achieved through a research-based approach to building collaborative learning communities, implementing blended learning environments for classrooms, schools and districts, using interactive web-based learning resources, developing sustainable inter-jurisdictional and inter-institutional collaboration and understanding institutional change. For more information about ABEL, please visit www.abelearn.ca.

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What do you need?

- A story to tell
- (BEGINNER) Digital pictures or a camera and/or capture pictures
- (ADVANCED) Video footage, audio footage and/or Digital video camera/microphone, music

GETTING STARTED

ABEL offers a variety of professional learning opportunities that help educators become familiar with the pedagogy and tools used to create a digital story. ABEL also has a variety of technical resources and applications available for use. For more information please email abelinfo@yorku.ca.

